

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a request for an information object at an address identified by a uniform resource
3 locator (URL); and
4 mapping the URL to a corresponding unicast address for the information object.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising using the unicast address for the information object
2 as an anycast address.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is received at an information object repository
2 selected without regard as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information
3 object repository.
- 1 4. The method of claims 3 further comprising instructing the selected information object
2 repository to obtain a copy of the information object.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the information object repository is selected according to
2 specified performance metrics.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of: average
2 delay from the selected information object repository to a source of the request, average processing
3 delay at the selected information object repository, reliability of a path from the selected
4 information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the selected
5 information object repository.

1 7. An computer system configured to map a uniform resource locator (URL) for an information
2 object to a network layer unicast address in response to a request for an information object at the
3 URL.

4 8. The computer system of claim 7 being further configured to use the unicast address as an
5 anycast address.

1 9. A network, comprising:
2 at lest one client configured to request an information object using a uniform resource
3 locator (URL); and
4 a computer system configured to receive the request for the information object and to map
5 the URL into a network layer unicast address.

1 10. The network of claim 9 wherein the computer system is further configured to use the network
2 layer unicast address as an anycast address.

1 11. The network of claim 10 further comprising an information object repository coupled to
2 respond to the request for the information object.

3 12. The network of claim 11 wherein the information object repository is selected without regard
4 as to whether the information object is actually stored at the information object repository.

1 13. The network of claim 12 wherein the information object repository is selected according to
2 specified performance metrics.

1 14. The network of claim 13 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of: average
2 delay from the selected information object repository to a source of the request, average processing
3 delay at the selected information object repository, reliability of a path from the selected

4 information object repository, available bandwidth in said path, and loads on the selected

5 information object repository.

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